

# THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

## MEDIA RELEASE

Martin Creed

'Things'

Exhibition opens on Saturday 20 February 2009 3 - 5pm

Exhibition continues until 3 April 2010

21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6DF

Martin Creed likes opposites. On and off, open and closed, big and small, in and out, light and dark - versions of something and nothing. His work often sets up extremes and by doing so he opens up the space in between. Utilising commonplace materials from copy paper and cardboard boxes to dining room tables and office chairs, he presents the spectrum of possibilities we are offered every day and highlights the absurdity that can be found in the ordinary. Creed's simple gestures often achieve dramatic results, and although not always immediately obvious, his approach to objects and materials can change the viewer's idea of them forever.

Remarkably, despite growing up in Glasgow, this exhibition will be Creed's first solo show in Scotland, and will be a unique opportunity to see a range of works produced over the last decade. Specially selected for the formally domestic setting of 21 Woodlands Terrace, the work will become combined with everyday items, enhancing its poignancy and its eccentricity. The exhibition will also include several collections of similar objects, carefully ordered according to size. These works highlight Creed's use of control while exposing the more off-kilter side of his practice.

'Things' will make use of the architectural features found within the Victorian building, continuing Creed's interest in playing with our perceptions of spaces and places whilst disrupting our expectations of the gallery environment. Creed is known for producing a range of works that frustrate such as lights that go on and off, metronomes that chime out of time and doors that close as soon as they open. For The Common Guild, Creed will present an equally testing work, drawing attention but denying access to one of the building's greatest assets: its view.

### Exhibition open

Thursday - Friday 12 noon - 7 pm, Saturday 12 noon - 5 pm and by appointment

For more information and images, please contact Kitty Anderson:

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### NOTES

1. **Martin Creed** was born in 1968 in Wakefield, England. From the age of three he lived in Glasgow. Between 1986 and 1990 he studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. He currently lives and works in London and Alicudi, Italy. In 2001, he won the Turner Prize with his notorious installation, Work No. 227: The lights going on and off (2001). He has exhibited world-wide, with recent solo exhibitions at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, 2008, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, 2009, Duveen Galleries, Tate Britain, London, 2008 and The Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College Dublin, 2007. He first exhibited in Glasgow in 1992 at Transmission Gallery and his Work No. 370, comprising hundreds of balls of various sizes, is in the collection of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. In 2007 The Common Guild presented Martin Creed's stage show 'Words and Music' to great critical acclaim and in 2010 Martin Creed will create a permanent new work for the Scotsman Steps in Edinburgh, commissioned by The Fruitmarket Gallery and supported through the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.

2. **The Common Guild** is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation, receiving Flexible Funding from the Scottish Arts Council. It is dedicated to producing a dynamic international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions and ephemeral, non-gallery projects, interventions and collaborations.

3. The Common Guild's temporary home at **21 Woodlands Terrace** is a grand, Victorian townhouse to the west of the city centre next to Kelvingrove Park. Exhibitions take place over two floors, including a unique library, designed by artist Andrew Miller, which will include a selection of Martin Creed's extensive output of artist's books and catalogues.

4. The Common Guild's current exhibition *Mircea Cantor 'Which light kills you'* - A proposition by Ami Barak continues until 23 January 2010.